

Title	Judicial Service Advisory Committee (adopt Calif. Rules of Court, rule 6.57)
Summary	Proposed rule 6.57 would establish the Judicial Service Advisory Committee.
Source	Task Force on Judicial Service
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Discussion	<p>In late 1999, upon completion of the work of the Task Force on the Quality of Justice, the Judicial Council approved the creation of a committee to consider issues relating to judicial retention, compensation, and benefits. In 2001, Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed members to a Task Force on Judicial Service and asked that one of the first actions of the task force be to propose a rule of court that would establish a Judicial Service Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Proposed rule 6.57 has three elements. The rule (a) identifies the area of focus and duties of the new advisory committee, and (b) prescribes the minimum membership requirements of the committee. By inference, the rule also indicates that the committee will work with the California Judges Association (CJA) in areas of common concern and interest.</p> <p>Under the rule, the advisory committee will make recommendations to the council for improving the administration of justice in areas including (1) benefits, wellness subsidies, professional development allowances, personal leave, and supplemental life, disability, or liability insurance; (2) health care benefits, including services and programs; (3) compensation and retirement; (4) quality of judicial life resources and programs; (5) mentorship programs; and (6) special needs and programs for new and retired judges.</p> <p>This focus will enable the advisory committee to recommend to the council on a continuing basis the adoption and revision of rules and forms and to make recommendations to the council on legislative issues that affect the California courts.</p>

The new advisory committee will come into existence on the date the council designates the rule to become effective. The proposed date is January 1, 2003. This date allows the membership to be selected using the regular nomination process this summer. The members' terms will begin on the regular membership cycle date, November 1.

The text of the proposed rule is attached at pages four through five.

Attachment

Rule 6.57 of the California Rules of Court would be adopted, effective January 1, 2003, to read:

Rule 6.57 Judicial Services Advisory Committee

(a) [Area of focus] The committee makes recommendations for improving judicial service, retention, and compensation.

(b) [Additional duties] In addition to the duties described in rule 6.34, the committee is also charged with identifying and evaluating current and best, national and local, practices and developing or recommending necessary training related to the following issues:

(1) Benefits, including providing a cafeteria plan of benefits; wellness subsidies; professional development allowances; personal leave; and supplemental life, disability, or liability insurance;

(2) Health care benefits, including services and programs;

(3) Compensation and retirement, including recommending the most appropriate mechanism for setting judicial salaries, and 401(k) and other deferred compensation programs;

(4) Quality of judicial life resources and programs, particularly those dealing with health, stress, and relationships;

(5) Mentorship programs; and

(6) Special needs and programs for new and retired judges;

(c) [Membership] The committee must take at least one member from each of the following categories:

(1) Appellate court justice;

(2) Retired jurist;

(3) Superior court judge;

(4) Superior court executive officer;

(5) The Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee;

- 1
- 2 (6) The Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee;
- 3
- 4 (7) Former member of the Task Force on the Quality of Justice,
- 5 Quality of Judicial Service Subcommittee or a member from the
- 6 Task Force on Judicial Service;
- 7
- 8 (8) Staff from the Judges Retirement System at the California Public
- 9 Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS);
- 10
- 11 (9) Staff from the Department of Personnel Administration's Benefits
- 12 Unit; and
- 13
- 14 (10) A member of the Executive Board of The California Judges
- 15 Association (liaison).